

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Nicole Dabros	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy
Text and Author	<u>Stone Fox</u> by John Reynolds Gardiner	Where to Access Text	Check book out from school/local library.
Text Description			
<p>In Chapter 4 of the book, a tax collector visits the farm the main character (Little Willy) is living on. The tax collector states that Little Willy's grandfather has not paid taxes on the farm in over ten years and now owes the state of Wyoming five hundred dollars. The tax collector tells Little Willy that if he does not come up with the money, the state will take away the farm. This chapter begins what will be the central ideas on why home and family are so important to Little Willy.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	550 Lexile Level, Grade 3	Text Length	Chapter 4, pgs. 34-37. The excerpt is 370 words in length.
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>The meaning and central ideas of this section of the text (importance of family and the home) are difficult to determine at this point in the story. The reader can make inferences based on how Little Willy reacts to the tax collector's news; however, the central ideas will become clearer as the text progresses.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustration on page 36 reflects the tone of the book. There is a lot of dialogue throughout the chapter and at times it is not clear who is speaking. 	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming-how it is a way of life for many and how it is not always profitable. What taxes are and why we have them/need to pay them. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pages 34 & 35- teach tone of voice and inflection based on punctuation marks (examples from text: "Are you sure...", "If you don't pay...we have our ways.") Complex sentence structures Some archaic language Some vocabulary specific to content of the book. 	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>While the author does not go into great detail on what taxes are, the students may have difficulty understanding why it is disastrous that Grandfather has not been paying them over a ten year period and how it would have been difficult for the family to obtain \$500 to pay off the taxes.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>Excerpt-specific takeaway: how owing \$500 will affect upcoming events in the story. Overall takeaways for book: Home-what does this look like to you and/or others? What lengths will people go to in order to keep their home?</p>			

Vocabulary Analysis Template

	Words that demand less teaching time (i.e. the definition is singular and concrete)	Words that demand more teaching time (i.e. words with multiple meanings and/or that are part of a word family)
Words that can be determined in context	<p>Snatched (Tier 2) Examined (Tier 2) Jabbed (Tier 2) Owe (Tier 2) Exposing (Tier 2)</p>	<p>Clear as a bell (Tier 3) Threw'em (Tier 2) Bill (Tier 2) Strongbox (Tier 3)</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Apparently (Tier 2) Insisted (Tier 2) Worth (Tier 2) Piped up (Tier 2)</p>	<p>Figures (Tier 2) Legal (Tier 3) Taxes (Tier 3) Rent (Tier 2)</p>